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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Miloš KOTEREC (Slovakia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Maintenance of international security" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/80 B of 12 December 1995.

2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October 1997, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 62 to 82, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 13 to 17 and from 20 to 24 October (see A/C.1/52/PV.3-12). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach were held at six informal meetings, from 27 to 31 October. Draft resolutions on the items were considered at the 15th to 17th meetings, from 5 to 7 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.15-17); action was taken on them at the 18th to 24th meetings from 10 to 14 and on 17 November (see A/C.1/52/PV.18-24).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States (A/52/373);

(b) Letter dated 7 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the texts of the final declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government of the

Organization of the Islamic Conference at the extraordinary session held at Islamabad on 23 March 1997 (A/51/915-S/1997/433);

(c) Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/92);

(d) Letter dated 16 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/123-S/1997/331);

(e) Letter dated 28 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/129);

(f) Letter dated 30 April 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of resolution 1119 (1997) on conflicts in Transcaucasia adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 22 April 1997 (A/52/130-S/1997/345);

(g) Letter dated 15 May 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/153-S/1997/384);

(h) Letter dated 28 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the following Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation, signed in Paris on 7 May 1997 (A/52/161-S/1997/413);

(i) Letter dated 29 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/163);

(j) Letter dated 30 May 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the joint communiqué of the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine, adopted at Tallinn on 27 May 1997 (A/52/171);

(k) Letter dated 6 June 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/174);

(l) Letter dated 13 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/188);

(m) Letter dated 26 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, drawing attention to the Thessaloniki Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign

Affairs of countries of South-eastern Europe, held at Thessaloniki, Greece, on 9 and 10 June 1997 (A/52/217-S/1997/507);

(n) Letter dated 15 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/230);

(o) Letter dated 16 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/253);

(p) Note verbale dated 17 July 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/254-S/1997/567);

(q) Letter dated 21 July 1997 from the representatives of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/257);

(r) Letter dated 25 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/301-S/1997/668);

(s) Letter dated 5 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/322);

(t) Letter dated 9 September 1997 from the representatives of Armenia and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/331);

(u) Letter dated 11 September 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Lithuania and Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/362);

(v) Letter dated 16 July 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts and Nevis to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/368);

(w) Letter dated 26 September 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/405-S/1997/758);

(x) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum, held at Rarotonga from 17 to 19 September 1997 (A/52/413);

(y) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1997 (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

(z) Letter dated 24 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/564-S/1997/847);

(aa) Letter dated 4 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/565);

(bb) Letter dated 5 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/570-S/1997/854);

(cc) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/589-S/1997/871);

(dd) Letter dated 10 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the joint statement adopted at the meeting of the Ministers of Defence of South-eastern European Partnership for Peace participating States, regional North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members Greece and Turkey, NATO members Italy and the United States of America, held at Sofia on 3 October 1997 (A/C.1/52/4).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/52/L.34 and Rev.1

5. At the 17th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of Austria, Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States" (A/C.1/52/L.34). Subsequently, Cyprus, Monaco, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 21st meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/52/L.34/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of A/C.1/52/L.34, subsequently jointed by Canada, Albania and Ukraine which contained the following revisions:

(a) A new preambular paragraph was inserted after the fifth preambular paragraph, reading:

> "Emphasizing the importance of the results of the summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of countries of South-East Europe, held on Crete, Greece, on 3 and 4 November 1997, for the peace, good-neighbourliness, stability and prosperity of the region";

(b) In operative paragraph 4, the words 'first results' were replaced by the words 'early results'.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.1/52/L.34/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, the annex to which contains the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and its resolutions 46/62 of 9 December 1991, 48/84 B of 16 December 1993 and 50/80 B of 12 December 1995,

Mindful of the importance of the activities aimed at the creation of peace, stability, security, cooperation and sustainable economic development in the Balkan region,

Affirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

Emphasizing the urgency of the consolidation of the Balkans as a region of peace, security, stability and good-neighbourliness, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and so enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region,

Noting the desire of the Balkan States to develop good-neighbourly relations among themselves and friendly relations with all nations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Emphasizing the importance of the results of the summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of countries of South-East Europe, held on Crete, Greece, on 3 and 4 November 1997, for the peace, good-neighbourliness, stability and prosperity of the region,

Expressing its support for the international efforts aimed at the implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, initialled at Dayton, Ohio, on 21 November 1995 and signed in Paris on 14 December 1995,[1]

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[1] See A/50/790-S/1995/999 and Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/999.

Expressing also its support for the Pact of Stability in Europe, adopted in Paris on 21 March 1995, the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royaumont Initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the activities of the Central European Initiative, as well as for the inter-Balkan process initiated by the Sofia Declaration of 7 July 1996 and further enhanced by the Thessaloniki Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in the Balkans,[2]

Stressing the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States for the promotion of international cooperation and for the solution of problems among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Taking into account the importance of the ongoing cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States,[3]

Taking note of its deliberations on the subject at the present session,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Notes with interest the views of some States on the development of good-neighbourly relations among the Balkan States, contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Emphasizes the importance for all Balkan States to promote mutual cooperation in all fields and, inter alia, in trade and other forms of economic cooperation, transport and telecommunications, protection of the environment, advancement of democratic processes, promotion of human rights and development of cultural and sport relations;

3. Calls upon all Balkan States to endeavour to promote good-neighbourly relations and continually to undertake unilateral and joint activities, including confidence-building measures as appropriate, in particular within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

4. Also calls upon all Balkan States and interested States outside the region to participate actively in and support the negotiations foreseen in annex 1 B, article V, of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina,[1] with a view to reaching early results;

5. Calls upon the relevant international organizations and competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support and assist the ongoing process of development of good-neighbourly relations among

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[2] A/52/217-S/1997/507, annex I.

[3] A/52/373.

the Balkan States and invites them to inform the Secretary-General of their activities and of their views on the subject;

6. Stresses that the closer engagement of Balkan States in cooperation agreements on the European continent will favourably influence the political and economic situation in the region, as well as the good-neighbourly relations among all Balkan States;

7. Urges normalization of the relations among all States of the Balkan region;

8. Affirms the need for strict compliance with the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity or political independence, the inviolability of international borders and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State;

9. Stresses the urgency of the realization of the aim of the Balkans to become a region of peace, stability, security, cooperation and sustained economic development;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of Member States, particularly those from the Balkan region, and of the relevant international organizations and competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, on the development of good-neighbourly relations in the region and on measures aimed at the creation of peace, stability, security, cooperation and sustained economic development in the Balkan region, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States on the subject;

11. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the subject at its fifty-fifth session.